

BEFORE THE
MISSOURI REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

In the matter of the application of)
)
 JOHN ZAHNER,)
)
 Applicant.)

**ORDER OF THE MISSOURI REAL ESTATE COMMISSION
REGARDING ISSUANCE OF A PROBATED REAL ESTATE
SALESPERSON LICENSE TO JOHN ZAHNER**

The Missouri Real Estate Commission ("MREC") hereby issues its ORDER granting a PROBATED real estate salesperson license to John Zahner ("Zahner") pursuant to the provisions of § 324.038, RSMo.¹ As set forth in § 324.038, RSMo, Zahner may submit a written request for a hearing to the Administrative Hearing Commission seeking review of the MREC's decision to issue a probated real estate salesperson license. Such written request must be filed with the Administrative Hearing Commission within 30 days of the date of delivery or mailing by certified mail of this Order. The written request should be addressed to the Administrative Hearing Commission, Room 640, Truman State Office Building, P.O. Box 1557, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-1557. If no written request for review is filed with the Administrative Hearing Commission within the 30-day period, the right to seek review of the MREC's decision shall be considered waived.

¹ All statutory references are to the Revised Statutes of Missouri, as amended, unless otherwise specified.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based upon the foregoing, the MREC hereby states:

1. The MREC is an agency of the State of Missouri created and existing pursuant to § 339.120, RSMo, for the purpose of executing and enforcing the provisions of § 339.010 to 339.205 and § 339.710 to 339.860, RSMo, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, relating to real estate salespersons and brokers.
2. Zahner is a natural person residing at the address of 3601 NE Stanton Street, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64064.
3. On or about August 10, 2015 the MREC received Zahner's application for a real estate salesperson license ("Application").
4. On his Application, question 4-13, Zahner was asked if he had "been finally adjudicated and found guilty, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, in a criminal prosecution in this state, or any other state, or of the United States, whether or not sentence was imposed? **NOTE: This includes Suspended Imposition of Sentence, Suspended Execution of Sentence, and alcohol related offenses, i.e. DWI and BAC.**" Zahner responded, "YES" to question 4-13.
5. Zahner included a statement with his answer of "YES" to question 4-13, in which he acknowledged his criminal history. Zahner asserted that the criminal events happened "years ago" and do not reflect the person he is today. Zahner noted that he has been gainfully employed since the fall of 2008; that he is married and has two children. He attributed his criminal history to stupid mistakes made when he

was young. Zahner recounted the circumstances of his last arrest and conviction in 2007 and noted earlier criminal acts.

6. On or about August 23, 2002, Zahner pled guilty to class D felony charge of Unlawful use of a Weapon/Exhibiting, in the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri, case number CR02-04439.
7. On or about August 23, 2002, the Court suspended imposition of sentence on Zahner and placed Zahner on two (2) years' supervised probation, ordered substance abuse screening and treatment as recommended and ordered no abuse of S. M..
8. From February 2004 through August 2005, Zahner was charged with various local ordinance violations for which he was fined.
9. On or about January 8, 2008, Zahner pled guilty to the class C felonies of Possession of a Controlled Substance Except 35 Grams Or Less Of Marijuana and Possession of a Controlled Substance At A County/Private Jail Except With A Written Prescription, in the Circuit Court of Warren County, Missouri, case number 07BBCR003530.
10. On or about January 8, 2008, the Court sentenced Zahner to seven (7) years' incarceration with the Department of Corrections on each felony charge. The Court suspended execution of Zahner's sentence and placed Zahner on five (5) years' supervised probation, which was reported to have been successfully completed on March 4, 2013.
11. On or about February 8, 2008, Zahner pled guilty to the class A misdemeanors of Possession Of Up To 35 Grams of Marijuana and Resisting/Interfering With

Arrest, Detention Or Stop, in the Circuit Court of Warren County, Missouri, case number 07BBCR0042701.

12. On or about February 8, 2008, the Court sentenced Zahner to thirty (30) days' jail incarceration and costs on each misdemeanor charge.
13. The crimes of Unlawful use of a Weapon/Exhibiting, Possession of a Controlled Substance Except 35 Grams Or Less Of Marijuana, Possession of a Controlled Substance At A County/Private Jail Except With A Written Prescription, Possession Of Up To 35 Grams of Marijuana and Resisting/Interfering With Arrest, Detention Or Stop are offenses of which an essential element is fraud, dishonesty or an act of violence and/or are crimes involving moral turpitude; and the commission of these crimes demonstrates a lack of regard for the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
14. The crimes of Unlawful use of a Weapon/Exhibiting, Possession of a Controlled Substance and Possession of a Controlled Substance at a County/Private Jail w/o written prescription are offenses reasonably related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a real estate salesperson.

II

CONCLUSION OF LAW

15. As a result of the criminal conduct identified in Section I herein, cause exists for the MREC to deny Zahner's application for a real estate salesperson license pursuant to § 339.080.1, RSMo, which provides: "The commission may refuse to

examine or issue a license to any person known by it to be guilty of any of the acts or practices specified in subsection 2 of section 339.100,"

16. As a result of the criminal conduct identified in Section I herein, cause exists for the MREC to deny Zahner's application for a real estate salesperson license pursuant to the provisions of § 339.100.2(16), (18) and (19), RSMo, which state:

2. The commission may cause a complaint to be filed with the administrative hearing commission as provided by the provisions of chapter 621, RSMo, against any person or entity licensed under this chapter or any licensee who has failed to renew or has surrendered his or her individual or entity license for any one or any combination of the following acts:

...

(16) Committing any act which would otherwise be grounds for the commission to refuse to issue a license under section 339.040;

...

(18) Been finally adjudicated and found guilty, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, in a criminal prosecution under the laws of this state or any other state or of the United States, for any offense reasonably related to the qualifications, functions or duties of any profession licensed or regulated under this chapter, for any offense an essential element of which is fraud, dishonesty or an act of violence, or for any offense involving moral turpitude, whether or not sentence is imposed;

(19) Any other conduct which constitutes untrustworthy, improper or fraudulent business dealings, demonstrates bad faith or incompetence, misconduct, or gross negligence[.]

17. Section 339.040.1, RSMo, provides that licenses shall be issued only to persons of good moral character who bear a good reputation for honesty, integrity, and fair dealing and who are competent to transact the business of a real estate

salesperson in a manner so as to safeguard the public's interest. Zahner has engaged in conduct and has pleaded guilty to crimes that adversely affect his moral character, his reputation, and his fitness and qualifications to practice as a real estate salesperson.

18. As an alternative to refusing to issue a license, the MREC may, at its discretion, issue a license subject to probation, pursuant to § 324.038.1, RSMo, which provides:

Whenever a board within or assigned to the division of professional registration, including the division itself when so empowered, may refuse to issue a license for reasons which also serve as a basis for filing a complaint with the administrative hearing commission seeking disciplinary action against a holder of license, the board, as an alternative to refusing to issue a license, may at its discretion, issue to an applicant a license subject to probation.

19. The MREC issues this Order in lieu of denial of Zahner's application for a real estate salesperson license. The MREC has determined that this Order is necessary to ensure the protection of the public.

III

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

20. Based on the foregoing, the Missouri real estate salesperson license issued to Zahner is subject to the following terms and conditions.
21. **Zahner's license is on probation for two (2) years.** Zahner's real estate salesperson license is hereby placed on PROBATION for a period of TWO (2) YEARS from the effective date of this Order. During the period of probation on his real estate salesperson license, Zahner shall be entitled to practice as a real estate

salesperson provided he adheres to all the terms stated herein. The period of probation shall constitute the "disciplinary period."

22. **Terms and conditions of the disciplinary period.** Terms and conditions of the disciplinary period are as follows:

A. If at any time during the disciplinary period Zahner wishes to transfer his license affiliation to a new broker/brokerage, he must submit a Broker Acknowledgment form signed by the new broker. This acknowledgement is in addition to any other required application, fee, and documentation necessary to transfer his license. Zahner must obtain the Broker Acknowledgement form from the MREC.

B. Zahner shall keep the MREC apprised at all times in writing of his current address and telephone number at each place of residence and business. Zahner shall notify the MREC in writing within ten days of any change in this information.

C. Zahner shall timely renew his Missouri real estate salesperson license, timely pay all fees required for license renewal, and comply with all other requirements necessary to maintain his license in a current and active state. During the disciplinary period, Zahner shall not place his license on inactive status as would otherwise be allowed under 20 CSR 2250-4.050. Alternatively, without violating the terms and conditions of this Probated License Order, Zahner may surrender his real estate license by submitting a letter to the MREC. If Zahner applies for a real estate license after surrender, Zahner shall be required to requalify as if an original applicant and the MREC will not be precluded from basing its decision, wholly or

partially, on the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and discipline set forth in this Probated License Order.

D. Zahner shall meet in person with the MREC or its representative at any such time and place as required by the MREC or its designee upon notification from the MREC or its designee. Said meetings will be at the MREC's discretion and may occur periodically during the probation period.

E. Zahner shall immediately submit documents showing compliance with the requirements of this Order to the MREC when requested by the MREC or its designee.

F. During the probationary period, Zahner shall accept and comply with unannounced visits from the MREC's representatives to monitor compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order.

G. Zahner shall comply with all relevant provisions of Chapter 339, RSMo, as amended; all rules and regulations of the MREC; and all local, state, and federal laws. "State" as used herein refers to the State of Missouri and all other states and territories of the United States.

H. Zahner shall report to the MREC each occurrence of Zahner being finally adjudicated and found guilty, or entering a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, in a state or federal criminal prosecution, to felony or misdemeanor offenses, within ten business days of each such occurrence.

23. Upon the expiration and successful completion of the disciplinary period, Zahner's real estate salesperson license shall be fully restored if all other requirements of the law have been satisfied; provided, however, that in the event

24. the MREC determines that Zahner has violated any term or condition of this Order, the MREC may, in its discretion, after an evidentiary hearing, vacate and set aside the discipline imposed herein and may suspend, revoke, or otherwise lawfully discipline Zahner's real estate salesperson license.
25. No order shall be entered by the MREC pursuant to the preceding paragraph of this Order without notice and an opportunity for hearing before the MREC in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 536, RSMo.
26. If the MREC determines that Zahner has violated a term or condition of this Order, which violation would also be actionable in a proceeding before the Administrative Hearing Commission or the circuit court, the MREC may elect to pursue any lawful remedies or procedures afforded it and is not bound by this Order in its determination of appropriate legal actions concerning such violation.
27. If any alleged violation of this Order occurs during the disciplinary period, the MREC may choose to conduct a hearing before it either during the disciplinary period, or as soon thereafter as a hearing can be held, to determine whether a violation occurred and, if so, may impose further disciplinary action. The MREC has continuing jurisdiction to hold a hearing to determine if a violation of this Order has occurred.
28. The MREC will maintain this Order as an open and public record of the MREC as provided in Chapters 339, 610 and 324, RSMo.

SO ORDERED AND EFFECTIVE THIS 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2015.



Joseph Denkler, Executive Director
Missouri Real Estate Commission